

ART 34 AMDT

CLAIMS:

(amended October 18, 2004)

1. A method for determining the gastric emptying by orally administering a test substance and measuring its dwelling time in the stomach, characterized in that the increase of  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  in the exhaled respiratory air is determined before and after the oral administration of free  $^{13}\text{C}$ -octanoic acid in a form bound to egg yolk together with a standardized test meal, wherein body-related conversion factors are dispensed with.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said test meal consists of a fried egg into which the free  $^{13}\text{C}$ -octanoic acid is stirred, whereupon it is eaten together with a slice of toasting bread, 5 to 10 g of margarine or butter, followed by drinking 150 ml of water or coffee.